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Cllr Janet Looker
Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People's Services
The Guildhall
York
YO1 9QN

16th April 2012

Dear Councillor Looker,

Consultation on the Proposed Closure of Burnholme Community College
Response from the Governing Body of Applefields School

The following submission is made on behalf of the Governing Body of Applefields School.

The Governors and community of Applefields School are very disappointed to learn of the proposal to consult on the proposed phased closure of Burnholme Community College. The Governors do, however, recognise that, despite the college's best endeavours to recruit more students, the current and projected numbers on roll at the college mean that the school is no longer financially viable and in the context of pressure on all school budgets it is no longer possible for other schools to continue to subsidise the college.

However, as the document recognises, closure of the college will also result in the closure of the Applefields School satellite class. This is an invaluable resource but, as we set out below, the proposed closure has other important implications for Applefields School. Governors believe that should a decision be taken to close Burnholme Community College this must also include clear and satisfactory arrangements to guarantee the continuation of the Satellite provision in another school and the continued access to the facilities and resources that Applefields School students currently enjoy.

Since opening in September 2004, the co-location of Applefields School next to Burnholme Community College has provided valuable opportunities for the student groups to work together through curriculum projects, the development of individual inclusion programmes for a small number of Applefields students and for Applefields School to provide placements for Burnholme Community College students on Health and Social Care courses. The schools have shared resources with Applefields School students having access to the college's specialist teaching areas including drama, and sports and PE facilities.

The relationship between the two schools has developed further and most significantly with the establishment from September 2011 of the Satellite class for a group of Key Stage 3 Applefields School students. The development of this innovative provision has contributed significantly to the range of opportunities available to students with moderate and severe learning difficulties who are on the roll of Applefields School. In September 2011 the seven 7 Year students who transferred to the satellite class moved from primary mainstream and special schools and are now fully embraced as members of the college community. This has been an important journey for the pupils and their parents and carers who are fully committed to the benefit of the inclusive experience offered by the satellite provision.

From the outset it was intended that the Satellite class would also make a significant contribution to the overall provision for children with special educational needs within the host school. It is pleasing to report that since the Satellite provision has been established the staff have worked closely with their colleagues at Burnholme Community College to offer targeted support to a small number of Burnholme students. The feedback from the parents and the Burnholme Community College support staff has been extremely positive. The parents of these students have contacted me to raise their concerns about the impact that the closure of the Satellite class will have on their child's provision.

The Governing Body are pleased that the Headteacher and Governors of Burnholme Community College have given a commitment to host the satellite class at the college until the proposed closure date in July 2014. However, recognising the strategic importance of the satellite provision for both Applefields School and its importance in contributing to the local authority's overall SEN provision, it is Governors' expectation that the local authority will work closely with the Headteacher and Governing Body of Applefields School to secure another partner secondary school as soon as possible.

In evaluating the success of the satellite provision, the proximity to Applefields School is a factor that was not fully appreciated when the provision was established. The development of the provision at Burnholme Community College has enabled the easy movement of students and staff between sites. The relocation of the satellite provision to another secondary school will involve greater challenges with the movement of staff and students – this will inevitably require students and staff to be transported between sites for visits to Applefields School. It is Governors' view that although not an overriding factor, there are significant advantages in having the satellite provision located close to Applefields School.

Should it be decided to close Burnholme Community College it is clear that a number of secondary schools on the east side of the city will be required to accommodate the majority of the remaining Burnholme Community College pupils. It is important that these discussions proceed as soon as possible to ensure that the capital and resource implications are considered in the necessary detail. In addition, it is important that these discussions include the relocation of the Satellite provision and that this is established in another school in a timely manner so that a managed transition programme takes place enabling students to transfer to their new school in a secure and supported manner.

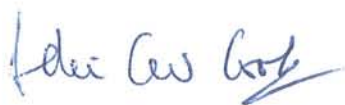
Looking beyond the proposed closure date, it is important to recognise that the colocation of Applefields School with Burnholme Community College has provided important access for Applefields students to the sports fields and facilities provided by Burnholme Community College. Applefields School has always had very limited external space with no green space available on site. Governors would expect the local authority to continue to secure the entitlement of Applefields School students to appropriate sports and PE facilities by providing Applefields School

with an allocation of the playing fields at the rear of the school and continued access to the external facilities, including the multi use games area (MUGA).

Looking to the future, Governors keenly await the publication of a white paper following the government's green paper 'Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability'. In considering the local authority's responsibility to secure provision for young adults with special educational needs, it is the Governors' view that part of the building and facilities at Burnholme Community College could be made available for Applefields School to work with local and regional partners to develop extended provision for continuing education and vocational training provision for adults with learning difficulties up to the age of 25 years. Such a development would complement the developing local provision available for this group.

Governors would be grateful for a specific response to the points raised above following the conclusion of the consultation exercise.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Cook
Chair of Governors



George Gilmore
Headteacher



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Our Ref: JH

23rd April 2012

Mr K. Hall
Assistant Director
Adults, Children and Education Services
Mill House
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Dear Kevin,

Archbishop Holgate's School Governing Body note with some sadness the consultation on the possible closure of Burnholme Community College. Whilst understanding the rationale for this process, we recognise Burnholme as a good school with good achievement and would have wished to see it stay open and flourish.

However, should the consultation end in closure, we also want to play our part in serving the local community and will welcome in September 2013 and 2014 as many of the students currently in Years 7 and 8 at Burnholme who choose to come to Archbishop Holgate's as part of the proposed transition arrangements. As the nearest school to Burnholme, we would also wish to underline this decision to welcome Burnholme students who transfer to Archbishop Holgate's by serving the whole of Burnholme's catchment area in future should the school close.

We will of course be delighted to welcome any parents of prospective students who wish to visit the school.

Regardless of which school students have previously attended, all students who come to Archbishop Holgate's are welcomed, treated equally and become fully integrated into the school community. As a Governing Body we are committed to ensuring that this remains the case.

Yours sincerely,

J. Hattam
Chair of Governors



Leading Edge - Science - Applied Learning - 'An outstanding school' (Ofsted)

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**Fulford
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Dear Kevin,

Consultation re Proposed closure of Burnholme Community College

I am writing as Headteacher of Fulford School. The decision to close a school is never one that any LA, and especially York with its superb reputation for community work and maintaining excellent provision across the board in education, will ever easily take. Clearly this is a difficult and stressful time for parents, students, staff and governors at Burnholme.

However, having been involved, as one of York's secondary schools' Headteachers, as the ASCL representative for York and as a member of the York Education Partnership, in many of the discussions surrounding the proposed closure and the plans put forward, I understand why the City of York has reluctantly agreed to this proposal.

As we are aware this matter was discussed a few years ago. At that time the proposal was shelved and Burnholme put forward a very good Business plan to address the issues surrounding falling rolls and the impact that this has on the school. Unfortunately the key element of this business plan aimed to address the falling roll by looking to increase the number of students being admitted to Burnholme from recent figures of about 40 per year to a figure of about 70. Unfortunately this has not been achieved.

Secondary schools in York have supported Burnholme over the years by agreeing, at the now defunct Schools Forum, to subsidise Burnholme financially as a small school so that the school could remain open. However, the amount of this subsidy has become unsustainable, especially in the current economic climate and looking forward at projections over the next few years, as all schools will find it difficult to manage their own budgets at a time when public expenditure is being reduced. The sum involved is not negligible; currently **£652,000** for the academic year **2012/13** and projecting this forward through to 2020 this would work out an **average loss to each of the other nine secondary schools of £585,000** over this period. Eventually this would work out by 2016 at a funding level of £9,500 per student for Burnholme whilst the lowest funded secondary school would receive just over £4,000. Clearly such a level of support, sustained over a period of time will have major implications for the rest of the York schools in terms of staffing and resources. The government is currently looking to establish a national funding formula for schools in order to remove such disparities between Local Authorities without taking into account such differences within a Local Authority.

However, this is not the only, nor the most important, factor that the LA has had to take into account. The more serious issue relates to the curriculum offer for students at Burnholme.

Year groups of around 40 make it impossible to provide a broad and balanced curriculum offer, especially at Key Stage 4 where very small group numbers can result in insufficient intellectual stimulation and challenge. Moreover several subjects may not be able to be offered because too few students opt for them to make them financially viable or educationally sound and, also, small numbers such as these can place limits on students social experiences.

The proposal put forward with regard to the phased closure, and especially the offer to all current Year 6 students who chose Burnholme for September 2012 and to those in next year's Year 9 to be offered option places at other York schools, demonstrates once more both the support of the LA buttressed by Headteachers from across the city to ensure that the process is managed as well as such a situation can be. This reflects our key concern that everything possible is done to ensure welfare and progress of students at the school.

Fellow headteachers all endorse the view of the LA with regard to the way in which Simon Gumn and his governors have managed this extremely sensitive situation and have always looked to do what they believe is in the best interests of everyone within the community of Burnholme School, whether this be students, parents or staff.

Finally I am also aware of the tremendous amount of work put in by yourself, Pete Dwyer and other officers of the City of York with regard to how you have looked to manage this situation. I know that if there was any possibility of finding a practical alternative to the closure of Burnholme Community College you would have pursued it and implemented it.



Steve Smith
Headteacher, Fulford School
ASCL Secretary, City of York

Consultation regarding the proposed phased closure of Burnholme Community College



The Consultation on the proposed closure of Burnholme Community College was discussed at the Full Governing Body meeting at Hempland Primary School on Monday 19th March 2012. Consultation documents including the "Have Your Say" questionnaire had been previously distributed to all governors.

Statement from The Full Governing Body of Hempland Primary School

It is acknowledged that:

Over many years many pupils have enjoyed their education at BCC. Pupils, parents and staff have provided strong and loyal support to the school over that time. Should the school close it will be considered a loss to the community and a concern to many stakeholders.

Significant factors raised at the Full Governing Body meeting as part of this wider consultation were:

Partnership and mutual support between Hempland and BCC

Hempland and BCC enjoy a good partnership. Each year classes from Hempland visit BCC, recently this has included involvement in sports activities, business learning, ICT and watching school productions. BCC staff have supported ICT, Maths, Geography and Drama lessons at Hempland. Each year we invite BCC staff and former pupils to speak to our Year 6 children about life at Burnholme. Hempland teachers visit Year 7 pupils at their afternoon tea event to hear how they are settling in to their new secondary school. The head teachers from both schools work in partnership as part of the North east York cluster of schools. For a number of years joint meetings of the Governing Body of BCC and Hempland were held to reinforce collaboration.

Pupil numbers, falling rolls and the resulting financial implications for BCC.

Statistics show that pupil numbers at BCC have fallen steadily over time. A significant rise in pupil intake would be required to support the school in the long term. Hempland school has provided the second largest intake to BCC with an average of 13 Hempland pupils starting Year 7 each year over the last 4 years.

The wider financial implications for other schools in the City should BCC remain open or be closed over a phased time period.

It is acknowledged that the aim of the LA is to work with all schools and communities to support individual school and the education for all pupils in the City. The fall in pupil numbers makes long term financial viability of BCC challenging. To provide on-going and effective financial support for BCC would impact on resourcing for other schools. Considering the benefits against the long term costs combined with wider economic factors make this a difficult option.

Retention of staff and curriculum opportunities that can be provided in a small secondary school.

It is recognised that BCC provides a stimulating and broad curriculum to its pupils. Should the school remain open in order to meet curriculum requirements it will need to retain and attract staff of a high calibre. Continued liaison with other secondary schools will be needed to provide a curriculum that is fit for purpose and offers children in our locality the opportunities they deserve to select from an appropriately wide range of well taught subjects.

The reduction in parental choice of Secondary schools and future admission arrangements for children in the BCC catchment.

The closure of BCC will reduce parental and pupil choice. Future admission arrangements for children in the BCC catchment area should give attention to the large numbers who attend and who live towards the North of Hempland Primary School; Huntington School should be considered as the catchment area for those children. This will divide numbers more equitably between Archbishop Holgate School and Huntington School as well as maintaining choice for pupils and parents.

The impact on the community and the future use of the BCC site

Should BCC close then the future use of the BCC site should be open to public consultation. The usage created should provide community facilities that are carefully planned to enhance the locality as well as increasing opportunities for children and adults.

Hempland Kids club which is located on the BCC site.

Hempland Kids club is located in a separate building on the BCC site. The club provides an excellent, well used and vital facility for children and families - both for after school and holiday provision. It has high quality leadership and a strong and established staff team. Its current building has been improved and developed over time and its location on the BCC site makes it possible to be retained as an ideal standalone building. Support to allow this club to continue is an essential aspect of the wrap around care provided to children who attend Hempland Primary School. To date 130 children who attend Hempland School are registered with Hempland Kids Club.

Helen Vest
Chair of Hempland Primary School Governing Body

16th April 2012

BURNHOLME COMMUNITY COLLEGE QUESTIONNAIRE

Responses from Huntington School's Governing Body.

3. The local authority and governing body consider they have explored all the possible solutions for keeping Burnholme Community College open. However, if you think there are alternatives to those given above that should be considered, please state below.

We do not have any alternatives to the four possible solutions that were considered by the Local Authority and the Governing Body.

4. What do you think about the proposal for current years 9, 10 and 11 to finish their GCSEs at the college?

The future of the children in Years 9, 10 and 11 has to be up to the children's parents in the first instance. We understand why it is preferable that Years 9, 10 and 11 finish their GCSEs at the College but we have significant concerns about this happening as planned; we fear that once parents realise that the College is indeed closing, they will rush to remove their children from the College irrespective of any planned phased closure.

5. What do you think about the proposal for current years 7 and 8 to transfer to alternative secondary schools at the end of their year 9?

We are supportive of this proposal as long as they receive the support they will require and that the allocation of places to those students is distributed fairly across the City's secondary schools.

6. What do you think about the proposal to provide free school uniforms for current year 7 and 8 students who transfer in groups to other schools?

We are fully supportive of this proposal.

7. What do you think about the proposal to provide free transport to those groups of children who transfer in groups to schools over two miles away from their home?

We are fully supportive of this proposal.

8. What do you think about the option of including the college catchment area within the catchment area of Archbishop Holgate's CE School?

As a Governing Body we feel that it is important that this decision is discussed more widely before any agreement is made; however, we do think that there is some common sense merit to the proposal. We do think it important that those parents who do not wish their children to attend a faith school but live within the proposed new catchment for Archbishop Holgate's school have a secular alternative.

9. Do you think there are any alternative options for the catchment area that could be considered?

No.

10. Do you have any other comments concerning school admission arrangements in the area if the college were to close?

Whilst we acknowledge that government's admissions policy determines that Academies have an obligation to serve their community, we are concerned that the City's two Academy schools might exercise their right to stand, to some extent, outside the Local Authority's admissions procedures and so disadvantage local children. As faith schools the two Academies already stand far enough outside the Local Authority's admissions procedures and we would be concerned if they became more distanced from Local Authority policy through this particular issue.



Specialist Schools
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Our Ref: JTB/LAB

27 April 2012

Cllr Janet Looker (via email cllr.jlooker@york.gov.uk)
City of York Council

Dear Councillor Looker

BURNHOLME COMMUNITY COLLEGE - PROPOSED CLOSURE

I would like to put forward my views with respect to the proposed closure of Burnholme Community College.

I do feel sad that it has proved necessary to look into closing Burnholme Community College. As well as the disruption caused to the education of the pupils, the loss of a school will also affect the wider community.

Nevertheless, I do feel that the current situation is unsustainable. In September 2012, Burnholme Community College will have fewer pupils than any one of twenty York primary schools. In order to maintain a broad enough curriculum in such a small school, Millthorpe, with other secondary schools, have subsidised Burnholme Community College since 2009. The 2009 plan, which relied on rising pupil numbers to remove this subsidy, has failed.

This situation is worsened by a much harsher financial climate in education. My own school has just been through a round of teacher and support staff redundancies to keep our budget balanced over the next year or two. The £60,000 annual subsidy that my school makes towards maintaining Burnholme Community College might have permitted me to avoid some of those redundancies. I cannot see that it is fair that nine secondary schools in York now contribute over half a million pounds annually to the maintenance of such a small and, therefore, expensive school.

I feel very sorry for the parents and pupils and I do recognise that Burnholme has done an excellent job for those families who chose it. However, many of the pressing improvements I need to make are held back by lack of money and yet funding has been diverted from my school to maintain Burnholme.

I therefore support the proposal to close Burnholme Community College. As I have indicated previously, I am prepared to help in any way I can with the phased closure plan and should any Burnholme pupil wish to move to Millthorpe, I will ensure they receive particularly good care to make a positive transition.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Burton
Headteacher

Copy: Mr Bob Sydes (Chair of Governing Body)
Mr Kevin Hall (Assistant Director - ACE, School & Children's Strategy & Planning) CYC



Living the Olympic
and Paralympic Values

From: Mark Warters [mark@markwarters.co.uk]
Sent: 14 April 2012 11:41
To: McCormick, Claire
Cc: osbaldwickparishcouncil@gmail.com; djw1@york.ac.uk
Subject: Burnholme School

Dear Claire,

I write as Councillor for Osbaldwick and on behalf of Osbaldwick and Murton Parish Councils and Meadlands area residents association.

I feel that this 'consultation' is very much like many other CYC 'consultations', merely presentation of a situation of which the decision has already been taken and it is within that context that I present these comments.

- (1) Whilst I welcome the openness in which the consultation document and the Head Teacher has discussed the main reason for proposed closure i.e. 'an increasing number of rented student properties and fewer family homes', this in no way lessens the impact of this disgraceful and entirely predictable situation that has arisen due to the local authority's abject failure to plan, prepare and implement policies to protect the eastern quarter of York from the adverse effects of York University's rapid expansion in student numbers without a commensurate increase in on-campus accommodation. Given the imminent introduction of an article 4 direction to 'restrict' (?) the spread of student HMOs, with a 20% threshold that will serve to encourage rather than restrict HMOs, I fear that Burnholme School's demise will not be the last, in the eastern quarter of York.
- (2) I understand the confusion that exists regarding the potential for increased pupil numbers from the 'Derwenthorpe' development. I am sure such confusion would be increased if the wider public were fully aware of CYC's ambitions regarding search area B in the LDF core strategy, whereby 250 acres of greenbelt to the east of Metcalfe Lane is proposed for housing development. If the LDF core strategy is ever adopted, the search area B will come under threat of development over identified brown field sites. It does not need much foresight to envisage final closure of Burnholme School followed in a short few years by the announcement of a new school to be built in conjunction with search area B development.
- (3) I have absolutely no doubt that the decision to close Burnholme School is a 'fait accompli', given the potential capital gain to the CYC from selling the site for other uses. I would like to state here and now that I will oppose any attempt to build on or otherwise compromise the natural grass playing fields. A stance entirely consistent with both local plan and LDF policies but one that has been disregarded in the past when school playing fields have been sold off by CYC.
- (4) Regarding potential future uses for the built footprint of the site I would like to see a feasibility study undertaken to ascertain if complimentary usage of some of the school building could provide supporting funding to bolster the financial viability of the existing school prior to inviting suggestions for future uses.

I know that the Head Teacher has drawn up plans for potential re-development and complimentary use of some of the site, have these proposals been fully examined?

I do feel that this whole situation is a great shame for all past and present pupils, teachers and of course the current Head Master who has done so much to keep Burnholme School going.

Regards,

Cllr. Mark Warters

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